

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE
SPECIFIC NAME "PARVULA" MÖRCH, 1863, AS PUBLISHED IN
THE COMBINATION "APLYSIA PARVULA" (CLASS
GASTROPODA)**

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(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 1209)

The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to provide a secure basis for the name *Aplysia parvula* Mörch, 1863 (Class Gastropoda) by using its Plenary Powers to suppress the specific name *spuria* Krauss, 1848, as published in the combination *Aplysia spuria*, a *nomen dubium* which it has recently been claimed (Macnae, 1955) represents the circumtropical species named and characterised by Mörch under the name cited above.

2. The following is Mörch's description of his nominal species *Aplysia parvula* :—

T. solida, subpellucida, alba, convexa, subovalis, angustata; spira incurva, mamillata, utrinque subauriculata, latere dextro sinu arcuato brevissimo, superne marginato, inferne sulco profundo notato; latere sinistro arcuato, juxta apicem acie canaliculato; striae incrementi validae, inaequales, remotae; striae radiantes obsoletissimae, striae solitaria dextralis, submediana, sat impressa. Long. $8\frac{1}{2}$ mill lat. 5 m.

a) Specimen flaccidium. C. molle, gracile, fusiforme; epipodii lobi breves, postice integri, continui; oculi sublaterales, ante basim tentaculorum posticorum siti; tentacula gracilia, acuta. Long. 16 mill.

b) Specimen contractum. C. coriaceum, durum, transverse rugosum et sulcatum; foramen palii magnum, ovale (uti epipodii margo) linea nigra, marginatum. Long. 12 mill.

Testam non vidi sed tactu ut speciminis praecedentis.

Hab. ad ins St. Thomas (A. H. Riise et Dr. Hornbeck) St. Vincent (Guilding)

Cette espèce se rapproche beaucoup de l'*A. longicornis** Fér. (Rang Mon. t. XVII fig. 1—4) ; mais la coquille de l'espèce de Guilding est très différente, de forme étroite et bombée avec la spire infléchie.

J'ai vu, en 1854, la coquille de cette espèce sous le nom indiqué, mais non publié à ma connaissance, dans la collection du musée britannique.

3. Although Mörch's description is imperfect by modern standards, the convex suboval shell with persistent spire, the short parapodial lobes joined posteriorly, the delicate tentacles, large oval mantle foramen, margined, together with the parapodia, with black, and the resemblance to *A. punctata* are sufficient for the identification of the species. *Aplysia parvula* is the only species of the genus in which the spiral of the shell is retained.

4. The species named *Aplysia parvula* by Mörch may be conveniently redescribed in modern terminology as follows :—

Small or very small Aplysias, with rounded body, typically higher than wide. Skin soft, colour variable—purplish black, dark brown, tan, yellow, greenish grey or green, speckled with white or cream, sometimes with black and orange rims to the mantle foramen, siphon, parapodia, rhinophores, cephalic tentacles and anterior and posterior margins of the foot. Head small, neat, neck long. Foot narrow, pale, with slender pointed tail. Penis broad at the base, tapering. Parapodia short, not very mobile, fused posteriorly high up, closing in the mantle cavity. Mantle thin, with a large oval foramen. Purple glands well developed. Opaline gland simple, multiporous. Shell relatively large, oval or nearly circular, deeply concave, the apex with a distinct spire, anal sinus short and not deep. Typical radular formula $30 \times 16.1.16$. Rhachidian tooth with characteristically short and deeply incised basal plate and numerous denticulations. The nervous system is primitive in that all the ganglia of the nerve ring are distinct, the pleurovisceral cords are short and the visceral ganglia are separate.

5. We have now to consider the *species dubia* established by Krauss in 1848 under the name *Aplysia spuria*. This name was introduced by Krauss in a work in which he enumerated three species of *Aplysia* from Natal and the Cape area without giving figures of any of them. These species were :—

(a) *Aplysia maculata* Rang (P.S.), 1828 (*Hist. nat. Aplysiens* : 58) ;

(b) a species which Krauss said was very similar to *Aplysia maculata* Rang but lacked posterior tentacles. This species Krauss called "a spurious *Aplysia*", giving it the name *Aplysia spuria* ;

* i.e. *punctata* [intl'd, N.B.E.]

(c) a third species which Krauss neither described nor named.

6. The following is Krauss' description of his nominal species *Aplysia spuria* :—

Extract from Ferdinand Krauss

Die Südafrikanischen Mollusken
Stuttgart, 1848

p. 71 J. A. Wahlberg hat noch eine zweite Art mitgebracht, deren Schale vollkommen mit der Abbildung von Rang übereinstimmt*, aber das Thier ist vorn etwas kürzer, daher denn auch die Schale in der Mitte liegt, vorn und an den Mantellappen, die etwa den dritten Theil der Schale bedecken und schwarz eingefasst sind, wie gekörnt; es hat, was die Hauptsache ist, nur zwei vordere kurze stumpfe Fühler, während die hintern nicht zu erkennen sind; es scheinen zwar an der Stelle, wo diese sein sollten, Andeutungen von zwei Grübchen zu sein, doch lässt sich darüber bei dem einzigen in Weingeist aufbewahrten Exemplar nichts mit Bestimmtheit angeben. Ohne mehrere Exemplare untersucht zu haben, möchte ich desshalb auch keine Diagnose geben; sollte es sich aber bestätigen, dass es wirklich eine Art ohne oder mit zurückzeihbaren Fühlern ist, so möchte ich sie bei der sehr grossen Aehnlichkeit mit *A. maculata* Rang nicht von diesem Genus getrennt, sondern lieber *Aplysia spuria* genannt sehen. Der Körper ist 18''' lang, 8''' hoch; die sehr dünne am Rande hornartige Schale 8.5''' lang, 5.5''' breit und 3.4''' hoch. An der Natalküste.

7. It should be noted that Krauss described the shell of his species *Aplysia spuria* as corresponding exactly with that of *Aplysia maculata* Rang, a description which would not be applicable if Krauss' *spuria* really represented the same species as that represented by Mörch's *parvula*. Moreover, posterior rhinophores are present in all species and accordingly Krauss' *spuria* cannot properly be called "a spurious *Aplysia*". The black edging to the mantle foramen is the only positive character of value given by Krauss, but even this is not diagnostic to the species level. Taking Krauss' description as a whole, it is impossible to be certain what species he was describing. Four species are known to occur in the area covered by his book and his description might apply to an immature specimen of any three of these (*parvula*; *maculata*; *juliana* Quoy & Gaimard, 1832), though not to the fourth (*dactylomela* Rang, 1828). Without Krauss' specimen it is therefore impossible to interpret his nominal species *Aplysia spuria*. That specimen was at one time in the Stockholm Natural History Museum but Dr. Odhner has informed me that it has disappeared and must be presumed to have been lost. In these circumstances the name *Aplysia spuria* Krauss must be regarded as a *nomen dubium*.

* i.e. *Aplysia maculata* Rang, 1828 [intl'd N.B.E.]

8. Since the publication by Mörch of the name *Aplysia parvula* for West Indian specimens, the species has been found in all oceans from about 40° north to 40° south latitude, i.e. it is circumtropical. It has been recorded from the West Indies, Florida, Madeira, Morocco, West Africa, the Gulf of Aden, Mauritius to the Cape, The East Indies, Japan, China, the South Sea Islands, Australia, New Zealand and California. Since the species has such a wide range it is not surprising that local names have been given to it, e.g., *norfolkensis* Sowerby, 1869 for specimens from Norfolk Island, off New South Wales. But in most cases it has been possible to check the identification by means of specimens from Museums, or from descriptions and figures in author's publications.

9. The following authors have used the name *Aplysia parvula* Mörch for this species :—

Baba, 1937, 1949, 1952, for Japanese specimens
Dall, 1885, for West Indian specimens
Dall and Simpson, 1901, for West Indian specimens
Engel, 1927, 1936, for West Indian specimens
Haas, 1920, for West Indian specimens
MacFarland, 1924, for Californian specimens
Pilsbry, 1895, copied from Mörch
Pruvot-Fol, 1932, systematics of Opisthobranchs
Risbec, 1931, a good account of Moroccan specimens
Thiele, 1908—16, for West Indian specimens

10. The only author who has applied the name *Aplysia spuria* Krauss to this species is Macnae (1955).

11. For the reasons set out above I ask the International Commission to afford protection to the well-known and widely used specific name *parvula* Mörch, 1863, as published in the combination *Aplysia parvula*, from attempts to accord priority over it to the specific name *spuria* Krauss, 1848, as published in the combination *Aplysia spuria*, a name which it is impossible to interpret and which has been used only on a single occasion.

12. The detailed action now recommended is that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

- (1) use its Plenary Powers to suppress the specific name *spuria* Krauss, 1848, as published in the combination *Aplysia spuria*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;

- (2) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

parvula Mörch, 1863, as published in the combination *Aplysia parvula* ;

- (3) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

spuria Krauss, 1848, as published in the combination *Aplysia spuria*, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1) above.

References :

Krauss, F., 1848, *Die südafrikanischen Mollusken*, Stuttgart : 72

Macnae, W., 1955, " On four species of the genus *Aplysia* common in South Africa " *Ann. Natal Mus.* **13**(2) : 223—241

Mörch, O. A. L., 1863, " Contributions à la Faune malacologique des Antilles danoises " *J. Conchyliol.* **11** : 21—48 (This volume was also styled " 3rd Series, Tom. 3 ".)

SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION REGARDING THE NOMINAL SPECIES " TURDUS MUSICUS " LINNAEUS, 1758 (CLASS AVES)

By E. STRESEMANN

(Berlin, Germany)

(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 1135)

(For the proposal in this case see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 177—182)

(Letter dated 25th June 1957)

I beg to inform you that I am strongly in favour of the suppression of *Turdus musicus* Linnaeus, 1758, and the application of *Turdus iliacus* Linnaeus for the Redwing.